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The New York Times
Times Square

JULIUS OCHS ADLER
GENERAL MANAGER

November 1, 1954

Dear Allie:

As an old and understanding friend, it occurred to me you might like to read my farewell remarks to the 77th Division.

Please, please do not trouble to acknowledge.

As always,

Julie

The Hon. Allen Dulles

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21 November 1954

Dear Julie:

Many thanks for your note of November first with a copy of your farewell remarks to the 77th Division. I read it with the greatest of interest. Your letter and speech, however, calls to mind that we are all of us getting a bit older. Fortunately, I can say that I don't really feel it and I know that applies to you too.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

General Julius Ochs Adler
The New York Times
New York, N. Y.

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FAREWELL ADDRESS

TO

77TH INFANTRY DIVISION

BY

MAJOR GENERAL

JULIUS OCHS ADLER

Governors Island
New York

October 29, 1954

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There is scant hope of conveying to you the mingled emotions of appreciation, affection and gratitude which this occasion arouses deep within the inner recesses of my heart. If there be words to match my feelings, I cannot find them. There is no recognition, no honor, no tribute I could receive that means half so much as that which comes from my fellow officers and men of the 77th Division. I value your good will and your good wishes above all.

It is but natural that I should feel this way. The 77th has been a part of my life, a vital part, for a good many years—perhaps before many of you were even born. To me the 77th symbolizes the finest traits of the American character—honor, bravery, love of country, self-sacrifice, devotion to duty, and unity of spirit and purpose. I have seen the 77th both in war and in peace; under combat conditions and in routine inactive duty training. Wherever the place, whatever the circumstance, I have always been proud of the 77th and grateful that I have been privileged to spend part of my life with it. Though the individuals change from year to year and decade to decade, the 77th carries on with spirit undiminished and with luster constantly added to its proud tradition.

It is also only natural that I am a little sad, now that the calendar necessitates withdrawal from active participation in the affairs of the Division. One always comes with regret to the end of an absorbing chapter. However, I con-

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sider my retirement only technical and official. In my thoughts, interest and affection I will march with the men of the great 77th just as long as I live, and if there be a spirit world—even then shall I march with you as well.

As I reflect back to 1917 when I first became a small cog in the 77th Division and review its history up to the present moment, I believe its greatness as a unit has arisen fundamentally from two paramount qualities—spirit and teamwork. The spirit has provided an intensity of purpose to accomplish the best possible performance under any and all circumstances. It has led officers and men to execute not only normal and expected duties, but to exceed by far the standards of the customary routine. The same dynamic spirit that animates championship teams has always impelled this Division to a high level of achievement. Just to function passably has never been the philosophy of the 77th.

Spirit alone has not achieved such a standard. It has been forged into action by teamwork. The success of any military group depends not upon the brass but on the rank and file, the men by whose muscle, skill and courage orders are executed. It depends on seasoned noncoms and junior officers who are close to their men. It depends on the services—quartermaster, ordnance, medical, chaplain and others —without whose contribution no objective could be taken. Victory is often glamorized and personified in the public eye by an outstanding commanding officer—and leadership of course should get its proper due. But all of us here know that the basic strength of our Division and of the entire Army is

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provided by the men who endure the muck and mud of the foxholes and trenches; who weather the torrid silence of the jungles and the frigid blasts of the Arctic; who walk solitary sentry posts in the lonely vigils of the night, assist the weary and aid the wounded; who squeeze the triggers, drive the trucks, load the supplies, man the guns, stack the shells and storm the hills.

Almost 36 years ago I served as editor of the history of the 77th Division in World War I. Introductory to that volume I wrote what might be called a brief invocation entitled "The Service." It expressed the ideas of unity and teamwork in which I still fervently believe today:

> "The Service is not a mosaic of parts; it is a unity of many parts welded into one. It is far more than an organized force of material power. The Service, embracing within its strength the Infantry, the Artillery, and all the varied branches that contribute to (the efficiency of) the whole, is an institution with its glorious traditions reflected and embodied in the present. The fearless defender of our rights and liberties, the protector of our inheritance; the guardian of our ideals and traditions, it stands the glory and pride of a great united people. Bound together by bonds of common sympathy, purified by one spirit of duty and sacrifice, actuated by the same inspirations and impulses, it is ennobled and guided by the same hopes and ideals. The spirit of the Service has enshrined itself in the hearts of a Nation. Its achievements have become the

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realization of our most fervent prayers, the recipient of our just praises and the embodiment in golden deeds of what we most prize and esteem in American manhood."

If, in the midst of this valedictory, I paused for a poll to ascertain what you believe should be the first and highest objective of our national policy, I am quite sure the overwhelming consensus would be "peace." And if we went a step further to define that peace, we would unanimously establish that we seek neither the peace of enslavement, nor of the prison cell, but an honorable peace which will guarantee the safety of our children and grandchildren, the protection of our country and the preservation of our way of life.

But just talking of peace is useless. It is an idle daydream unless supported by a vigorous program of action. Peace will not obligingly fall into our outstretched hands like a ripe plum. We must prepare for it, work for it, deserve it.

It is much easier in most respects to prepare for war than to prepare for peace. War is definite, its dimensions visible, its tasks self-evident. In war everyone is either friend or foe. A great unity of purpose envelops us. Every other consideration yields to the one overriding purpose of winning the war. The General Staff has no restrictions save those imposed by the natural limitations of our physical, planning or administrative capacities.

To attain peace, on the other hand, we have to fight apathy, ambition, fear, jealousy, suspicion. Energies are

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relaxed. Danger may seem remote and time not pressing. If a cloud no larger than a man's hand appears on the horizon, one can easily make it disappear by looking the other way.

But, as soldiers, we know that when danger threatens we cannot look the other way. If we want the peace of freedom and independence, we must, as I have just said, prepare for it, work for it and deserve it. This imposes on us four great requirements:

Requirement 1—We must be militarily strong.

Requirement 2—We must not underestimate the Communist threat; militarily, diplomatically, politically, or psychologically.

Requirement 3—We must practice the democracy we preach.

Requirement 4—We must keep ourselves fully and accurately informed.

The first requirement—to be militarily strong—is self-evident. As General Omar Bradley once said: "We must wrap ourselves in a cloak of power." Paradoxically, the first prerequisite for peace and democracy is the ability to fight for them if necessary. It is unsafe at the present moment to obey the biblical injunction to beat our swords into ploughshares.

I will not venture an opinion as to how many men nor the quantity and types of weapons constitute adequate strength for this nation. But there are certain principles that I am convinced must be observed if our safety is to be assured.

We must have military planning at the very top that

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insures our resources and manpower will be fused to a condition of greatest strength without reference to individual service interests. The speed, destructiveness and complexities of modern war have taught us we can successfully defend ourselves only if our various weapons and services respond in unison and harmony. This means a high degree of coordination and demands the banishment of all narrow-visioned service rivalries; moreover it requires complete mutual understanding and agreement on the effective employment of each of our fighting organizations and weapons.

I do not for a minute deprecate the individuality, the pride, the tradition and spirit of the separate services. These qualities are irreplaceable assets both in training and in battle and must always be stimulated and encouraged. Beyond this, however, we require among all elements of our entire military establishment the same wholehearted teamwork that has been developed within the 77th Division.

A secure defense demands also a plentiful reservoir of trained reserves. This problem must be approached firmly and I dare to be optimistic that the next Congress will pass a Universal Military Training law under which all our young men would acquire the fundamental training they would need if called on to defend their country from attack.

The second requirement for peace which I listed—that we not underestimate the Communist threat—may appear fully met, without the necessity of further admonition. Certainly there are plenty of headlines, investigating com-

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mittees and speeches focusing on the Communist peril, both internal and external. Nevertheless, the subject does constantly need our special attention. Proper appraisal of the adversary requires more than heavy armament and a hypersensitivity to subversion. We must be aware of and meet the total threat.

This means that we must correctly measure and vigorously counteract the appeals the Kremlin make to the so-called neutrals, especially in Asia. We must not disregard Moscow's moves to divide us from our friends. We must not assume that because we have been generous and have sought only to promote freedom that we are everywhere loved and understood. We must not make the mistake of concluding that the poverty-stricken masses of the world, the hungry and unclothed emerging for the first time into national independence, will automatically perceive the superiority of democracy over the lying presentations of Communism. We must not think that stiff, angry, self-righteous postures will win friends for us.

If we imagine we can afford mistakes of this kind, then we are, in fact, underestimating the Communist danger and are meeting it only partially, which is to say inadequately. Our task is to oppose Communism wisely on many fronts in addition to those of military power and internal security.

The third requirement for peace is that we practice what we preach. Our most powerful weapons in the crusade for peace are the ideals of democracy and human

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dignity by which we live. If we are ultimately to win, these will be the decisive weapons. And as defenders of freedom we need to be as familiar with these spiritual weapons are we are with tanks and guns. The military today must be more than specialists in combat. We must also be specialists in democracy to whose safeguarding and preservation we are dedicated.

A primary obligation is to practice democracy here at home. Freedom never stands still. To neglect it or to take it for granted is to lose it. And while our democracy has moved and is moving forward, there still exist vital areas wherein we are deficient. In the field of human rights, there are flaws which are threats to our social fabric here at home and impediments to our moral leadership abroad. These imperfections must be removed if we want our preaching and our practice to coincide. Justice demands that every American, regardless of creed, regardless of color, regardless of economic status, shall have equal opportunity to participate in the benefits of democracy. Every forward step we make toward that goal is a mighty weapon for peace.

But democratic living has another vital importance closely associated with our world mission. The United States has inherited the mantle of leadership among the nations opposed to tyranny in all its forms. This leadership is moral as well as military. Only if we demonstrate complete devotion to our democratic heritage at home can we hope to occupy a strong moral position elsewhere throughout the world. What we do is a lot more important in establishing

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our prestige than what we profess. Totalitarianism can be thrust upon people by force, but democracy must be freely chosen. It is the responsibility of all Americans to encourage that choice by enabling the oppressed and confused to see how genuine and desirable is our democratic way of life.

The fourth requirement for the attainment of peace is to know and understand what is happening in the world today.

Practicing democracy is not merely a matter of warm heart and good spirit. The generous impulse is a fine starting point, but in the complex world of the 1950's, a desire to do good may easily go astray unless it is directed by adequate knowledge of the forces and events that shape our day-to-day and month-to-month history. Never before has it been so vital for men of good will to be also men of sound information. I stress this point because the fact is that we, as a nation, are not too well informed. Because we have more printed matter issuing from the presses and more sights and sounds broadcast through the air than any other country, it is often concluded that we are the best informed of all people. Perhaps many of us are adequately acquainted with the facts and issues of our day, but actually, as a nation, we are not well informed. Frequent surveys by George Gallup, Elmo Roper and other eminent statisticians have demonstrated an appalling percentage of ignorance and misinformation among our fellow citizens.

None of us has any valid excuse for not being posted on world affairs. More than any other nation, we have a free press, a responsible press, and the record is there

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for him who will pause and read. Yet a free press does little good unless we avail ourselves of its output. Admittedly, keeping informed is not easy. The Brussels Treaty, South Eastern Asia Treaty Organization, political alignments, diplomatic trial balloons and other front-page phenomena can make the head swim. There is more amusement at the neighborhood movie, more relaxation at the officers' club, but the world is bubbling and fermenting and it cannot be saved either at the cinema or the brass rail. Informed public opinion is a keystone of democracy. It would be shameful, indeed, if at a moment of crisis we made a wrong decision out of sheer ignorance of the facts.

I wish I could suggest a simple, easy way to keep ourselves informed. If only there existed some capsule, some digest, some brief summary or condensed synopsis which would keep us up-to-date in a few painless minutes every day. Unfortunately, citizenship in a free society is not that easy. Democracy throws the ball to us. It asks us to make up our own minds independently on the basis of the facts as we know them. The strength of our society depends to a large extent on the soundness of our collective judgment and that, in turn, depends upon the extent and accuracy of the information each of us possesses.

I fear I may have infringed too much on your patience with these solemn observations. However, if you give a General both an audience and an opportunity, you can

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safely expect that a speech will ensue. Your only hope is to pray that the speech will not be too long.

In response to your prayers, therefore, I shall now bring these remarks to a close. Before so doing I would thank you again for the gratifying and memorable honor you tender me tonight. It will always hold a top and treasured priority in my storehouse of cherished memories. I wish it were possible to express my warm appreciation to each of you individually, but you know, I am sure, that my affectionate thoughts and abiding faith will be with you and the men of the 77th Division as long as I live. As we look hopefully toward the sunrise of the future, my continuing wish and constant prayer is that you and your descendants may remain for all time freemen in a free and peaceful world.

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